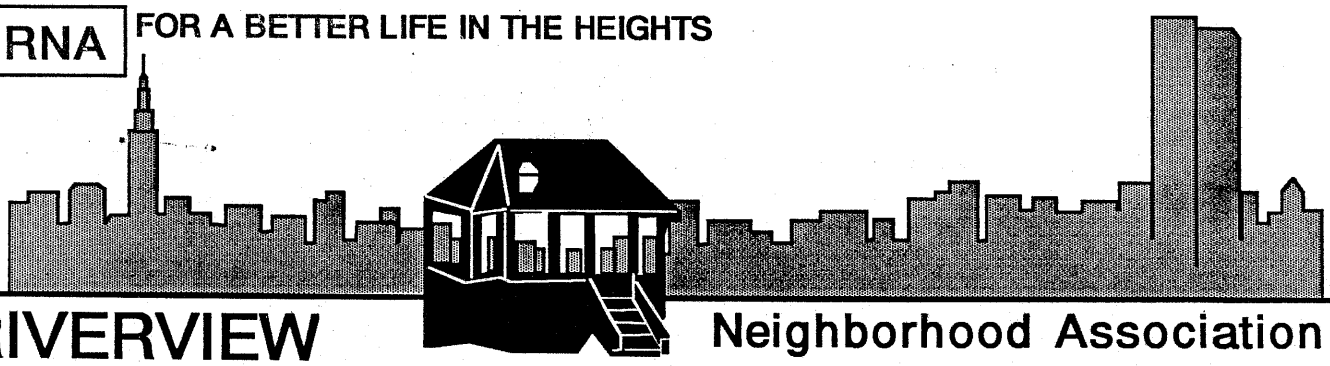
RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS



RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

FEBRUARY, 1990 *232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493*

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

MEETING MINUTES

While the weather and the after holiday blahs contrived to keep attendance low, the January meeting proved to be quite interesting.

We had the chance to meet Michael Martucci, Director of Public Works. Mr. Martucci is a life-long resident of Jersey City and can recall when there were services and activities in abundance.

As part of his new strategy, Mike has made changes in divisional duties so that personnel may be better utilized. Making parks a separate entity from recreation and hiring a licensed forester to oversee the parks, he hopes will make a significant difference and will restore some of the old beauty to our open space.

Mike is also planning to implement or expand programs for recreation such as soccer, basketball, ice hockey, swimming and football.

He also has many plans for activities for senior citizens and the effective use of available public schools for many of these programs.

Sanitation will not be neglected either, because Mike has plans to look into changes in current garbage pick-up schedules, and consolidating certain departments which he feels will help improve the condition of our streets.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to updates of ongoing projects in and around our neighborhood and then we adjourned to partake of refreshments.

Please join us at the next meeting when we will have nomination of officers. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, February 13th, 7:30 p.m. at Harborview Health Care Center. Why not bring a friend with you and enjoy a small pre-Valentine's Day outing. We look forward to seeing you.

Maria Tuzzo, Secretary

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

February is the month for nominations of officers in the Riverview Neighborhood Association. Nominations for office of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson; Secretary and Treasurer will be accepted during the regular meeting in February.

Elections will be held in March.

Please make every effort to attend the meetings and participate in our electoral process.

Your chance to make a difference in your neighborhood and ultimately your city starts here at the RNA.

Please note - Only those members who have paid their dues for 1990 can vote in the March election.

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY

Our annual Flea Market will be here before you know it. Now is the time to start gathering items and ideas.

It takes an enormous effort to gain the necessary permits, and to coordinate dealers, advertising, refreshments, donations, volunteers , etc., so please if you can contribute in any way to make our Flea Market a success, let us hear from you.

Bring yourself and your thoughts to the next meeting so we can get the ball rolling.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

As 1990 unfolds, we remind you that your dues for this calendar year are now due.

Membership dues help defray the cost of mailing our newsletter and pays for refreshments; stamps for correspondence and other expenses incurred in running our Association.

The amount is $3.00 a year. Please bring your dues in person to the February 13th meeting or make your check payable to the Riverview Neighborhood Association and mail it to RNA, 232 Ogden Ave, Jersey City, New Jersey 07307.

Be sure to include your return address so that your membership card can be sent to you.

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: FEBRUARY 13, 1990

AT THE HARBORVIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

TUESDAY, 7:30 PM

AGENDA:

A) ELECTION NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

B) COMMUNITY UPDATES

RNA Meeting with City Officials

On Tuesday, November 28, members of RNA met with Deputy Mayor Dominick Pugliese and members of the Police Department and the Dept. of Public Works in City Hall. This meeting was arranged by Pugliese because of the numerous compliants he received when he attened our October meeting. Micheal Martucci, the Director of the DPW listened to our compliants concerning the divisions of sanitation, facility maintenance, forestry and leisure activities. Although we commended Sanitation Inspector Ray Spellmeyer for doing a good job, we were not satisfied with the effectiveness of the division. We asked for more inspectors and the creation of work schedules for the night and weekends. We also asked that the inspectors be more aggressive against the regular and persistent offenders of the sanitation regulations (one or two warnings and then slap them with the minimal fine of $100.00). We asked if there can be an closer relationship between the Sanitation Division and the Incinerator Authority to maximize the effort. Martucci stated he was going to hire more inspectors and initiate a night schedule between 4PM and midnight.

We complained about the lack of any forestry services in maintaining the trees in Riverview Park (pruning, doctoring diseased trees and replanting of new trees). We mentioned the deplorable state of the park pavilion - covered with grafitti for over eight months and the low priority of painting it clean by the facility maintenance people. We complained of the dangerous state that the sidewalks in and around the Park were in and of the inability to put up a wrought iron railing on the pavilion.We told him of our continual problems with the division of leisure activities in maintaining and cleaning the Park, the lack of concern of its field workers and the need for a revamping of the recreational programs for our young people. In response to our compliants about the lack of these and other services, he said he was in the process of restructing these divisions to make them more responsive to the needs of the citizens and city as a whole. He promised to come to our January meeting and report any progress he made with these problems.

He also promised to take a walking tour with us through the Park to personally see the situation. (On December 18th, John Hurchek, assistant director of DPW met with us in the Park and surveyed the area.) As promised Martucci and Hurchek showed up at our January meeting and announced the restructuring of certain departments in the DPW: one, the abolishing of the division of Leisure Activities and the creation of two seperate divisions: Recreation and Parks & Forestry and two, the abolishing of the Divisions of Streets & Sewers and Facility Maintenance and the creation of two seperate Divisions: Buildings & Street Maintenance and Custodial Services. With this restructuring, they promised a more efficient and responsive DPW. Martucci also announced a commitment and monies to renovate the Palisade Avenue side of Riverview Park this year, and promised full participation of the surrounding community in its planning. He also announced the starting of a DPW's newsletter to inform the community groups and the citizens of the new recreational programs available for the youth. At this meeting, Martucci also informed us of the transfer of the sewer system and it's maintenance to the Sewerage Authority.

The second part of this meeting was with two members of the Police Department: Captain Galvin of the North District and Chief Blaszek, chief of Patrols. Informing them of the deteriorating situation in our neighborhood (as described in the article about the pool hall) RNA once again asked for their help in controlling the crime and deliquency We asked for a greater police presence with car, motorcycyle and walking patrols and just as important, a more thorough and sensitive attitude by the police in performing their duties. We again recommended the need to reorganize the City into six police districts as opposed to the present four: to create a more effective means of covering the city, by reducing the area each district would be responsible for. The North District would only be responsible for the area between the Union city border on the north and the State Highway on the south (Journal Square would be its own district.) We also urged that Det. Marty D'Angelo of the Narcotics Squad be allowed to resume operating the Housing Task Force (a cooperative effort between different agencies to combat illegal housing and criminal problems). We also presented them with a colored diagram of the area in question, hi-lighting the problem buildings, in terms of criminal activities (drugs, gangs, etc). The two officers promised to increase the patrols and give greater attention to this area. Unfortunately, as of this date, there does not seem to be a noticeable improvement to the problems in the area.

BILLIARDS SPECTACULAR

On January 10th, members of RNA spoke before the City Council to express their concerns about the granting of a license to a new business, called Billiards Spectacular, located at 401-403 Palisade Avenue. At the outset, let it be said that the issues involved were not related to the owners or their business (which incidently is a pool hall, or as the owners call it an upscale billiard parlor). The fears of some of the community were centered around the location of this establishment in an area that is unfortunately ridden with crime, drugs, gangs and vandalism.

A little background is necessary to understand the fears that this new business has created. Since the summer of 1989, RNA and the people on Palisade Avenue (from Cuneo Place to Griffith Street) have complained long and loud about a deteriorating condition in the area. At the Community Relations meetings in June and July, Captain Galvin and other members of the police dept and other city agencies were informed of the situation. At that time a new spanish luncheonette opened off the corner of Palisade and Franklin and immediately became a center for all the illegal and antisocial problems in the area: gangs intimidating the citizens, drugs, loud music, illegal parking, driving on the sidewalk, graffiti, vandalism, destruction of property and break-ins. The culprits involved lived not only on Palisade Avenue but also on Franklin Street, New York and Webster Avenues. The police seemed either unable or unwilling to help the neighborhood. Eventually the luncheonette closed down (over the holidays, a new luncheonette has opened and it seems to be better run and not attracting

the same bad element). Even though the colder weather usually decreases the deliquent element,unfortunately the crime situation on Palisade Avenue has not improved. Over the Xmas holidays, there were reports from neighbors and businesses of two nights of vandalism on the Avenue, resulting in broken store windows and tire slashings. Captain Galvin reported to RNA that two youths from Prospect Street had been arrested but turned over to the Youth authorities. The Avenue is still plagued by gangs of youths hanging out on the street corners of Franklin and Griffith Streets and in front of the liquor store, off Hutton Street

Adding to this delinquency problem and possibly underlying it, is the issue of absentee landlords. A good number of the multiple-dwelling buildings in this area are owned by people who do not live in them and seem to have very little concern for the neighborhood. The buildings are run down, are overcrowded, have illegal apartments, have no room for garbage storage and no superintendents. (Many of the owners seem to have consciously created these conditions to drive their tenants out, for the purposes of either condo-izing or selling the property. And to be fair, the owners too, have legitimate problems - high taxes and the rising costs of maintaining their property.) One can only imagine the frustration of the tenants in these buildings and the inevitable anger they express in terms of antisocial acts in their neighborhood. Without passing the buck entirely, the city and its agencies seem to have completely ignored the problems in this area or more frightening, are unable to effectively cope with them. The end result is a neighborhood that is falling apart with the different groups fighting against each other for a little room, a little peace, and a little respect.

Now after this rather long diversion into the ills of our neighborhood, we return to the primary point of this article: the pool hall. Again, at the risk of repetition, we are not interested in impugning the integrity of the two owners, John Folk and Lonnie Sobel. After meeting with them, RNA thought they were nice, legitimate people: our concern was that they seemed completely naive about the neighborhood they were moving into. The problem that we dread, is that the pool hall will act as a magnet for all the illegal activities in the area (much the same as the original luncheonette did in the summer). Their assurances that they will maintain a good atmosphere in their establishment is not enough - knowing the habits of the gangs and youth in the area, the owners are also going to have to be aware of problems outside, in front of their store. People milling and hanging around, cars driving up and double parking, dealers using the location for a drop or collection point, loud music and vandalism - these unfortunately are the realities of the nighttime on Palisade Avenue.

Another concern is that the owners and the police have assured us that the police will cooperate and make sure there are no problems at this business by driving past it a few times a night to check on it. That is absurd! Residents have been complaining about the lack of police presence and response time in the Heights for years and now, because a new business moves in, the residents might have to have even less protection than before. That doesn't make sense. (A solution would be to increase the number of driving and walking patrols in the area to accommodate the residential and business communities of both Palisade and Central Avenues. Unfortunately, one never gets a straight answer from either Captain Galvin or the police brass about more police or different scheduling to solve this problem.)

Another problem is the age limit that this kind of business is required to enforce. The municipal statue states (Article VI, Pool Rooms: N.J.S. 40:52-1 [f]): sec. 5-40 - Pool halls; presence of minors): "No persons under the age of seventeen (17) shall frequent, loiter, go or remain in any pool hall licensed hereunder at any time unless accompanied thereto by an adult". Unfortunately, as of this date, children and teenagers under seventeen have been seen in the pool hall without an adult.

Our aim is not drive out this business from our area, because RNA welcomes any new business or developer to our neighborhood. But we feel very strongly that the any new venture should add to the quality of our lives, not detract from it. We would like to see other businesses open up on Palisade Avenue: restaurants, retail stores, a health club, etc.

After hearing from about six people concerning the Pool hall, the City Council eventually voted to grant the license to the owners of the business. All of them were sensitive to the concerns of the community but thought that the business should be allowed to have a chance. They also noted that the resolution issuing the license (McC-494) was only for a period terminating June 30, 1990 and that although the renewal is usually granted automatically, all the Council members invited us back to speak before the renewal date, if the potential problems which we alerted them to, do indeed occur. (At that point the Council has the power to look into the charges and withhold the renewal if it is warranted.) Council President Roman informed us that she would speak to the police and the monitoring arm of the ABC to keep an eye on the business and ask them to report any problems to her.

The Council seemed to agree with our intention of granting the license but subject to a monitoring process of not only the community, but the city as well. This trial period will allow the owners the ability to run their business but also be aware that they must be responsive to the needs and concerns of the neighborhood they are located in.

At the end of its statement, RNA asked the Council at this hearing to help revive this Avenue as a safe, clean and modern residential and business district. Seeing as they are allowing businesses to open in the area it is not only reasonable to expect the City to help solve some of its social problems, but also to help renovate the infrastructure of the area, such as, new street lighting, repaving the street, stricter enforcement of police and sanitation laws and the availability of low or no-interest loans to new businesses and residents to improve their properties. RNA also asked Councilman Waddleton to help it in organizing an association for Palisade Avenue businesses whose goal would be to communicate the needs and compliants of these local businesspeople to the City. (A draft of the letter to be sent to the busibnesses on Palisade Avenue is on page 5.)

(To present a balanced picture of this situation, RNA invited the owners, Lonnie Sobel and John Folk to write

a letter for our newsletter. The following is their reply.)

Billiards Spectacular wishes to say "hello" to the Heights, and tell its new neighbors some details about ourselves to alleviate the concerns raised by a few members of the community. Our business is located at 401 Palisade Avenue, at the corner of Hutton Street. One of the owners, Lonnie Sobel, is a lifelong resident of Jersey City, and previously lived in the Heights for over five years. He currently lives downtown and is the treasurer of the Montgomery Gateway Block Association. Mr. Sobel is also very active in supporting community projects. When deciding on a location, Mr. Sobel, knowing the Heights quite well, knew of the need for quality indoor recreation in this area. The other owner, John Folk, a resident of downtown and previously accountant for Cooper & Lybrand, knows the importance of running a professional business and creating a positive environment for Jersey City residents. This is exactly what the two owners are doing.

During the past year, the owners have invested their time and money in the creation of this business. They simply didn't "throw pool tables in a room," but instead, carefully and purposely created an appealing atmosphere. The owners restored a century old tin ceiling, refinished a douglas fir floor, refurbished a brick wall, and added over $100,000.00 of fixtures to improve its space. It also added a new store front to make the outside attractive for the community and people passing by. By making this investment, the owners believe they have improved the community. Incidentally, the space the business now occupies was run down, vacant for three years, and thought by its landlord to be "unrentable".

After the quality environment had been created, the owners realized that they needed to take measures to maintain this quality. They spent much time in discussions and meetings with concerned members of the community as well as dozens of Police officers from the area, so that any concerns these people may have could be addressed. On Friday and Saturday evenings, when the hall is the busiest, an off duty Jersey City officer is present (hired by the owners). At other times, an extra employee was hired to maintain crowd control. These practices insure a safe and orderly environment. On a daily basis, the sidewalk in front of and around the store is cleaned. As many residents are probably aware, this particular section of Palisade Avenue is often littered, and the owners cleaning is not only removing garbage created by it their customers, but also removing litter from other buildings on Palisade Avenue. A parking lot is also provided for the customers, so that the residents' street parking is not consumed by pool players.

The owners have tried and believe they have succeeded in improving the Heights of Jersey City. The owners and management are working together to do whatever is necessary to insure this improvement will remain as such.

Billiard Spectacular welcomes the community to stop in and say "Hi". After coming, we're sure you will be pleasantly surprised with your new neighbor.

CONRAD'S CORNER

When Black Tom was taken over as a site for Liberty Park the area was overgrown with thousands of sunflowers, teeming with rabbits and pheasants. A boat club at the far end, facing the Statue Of Liberty with its derelict hulks formed a picturesque view much like a seashore scene along the coast. There were abandoned ferry boats, tugs, pile drivers and scows, a ready made seascape for an artist to paint. The surrealistic concrete remains of the coal tipple were handsome examples of modern art at the edge of the sandy beach teeming with hundreds of killies along the shore.

I remember working with architect Geddes of Princeton on the design of the park. He decided on a scorched earth policy of eliminating any traces of the railroad or piers, he was all set to even tear down the terminal. One afternoon he decided on the curved river sea-wall instead of leaving the existing bulkheads and beach which then cost the State and Federal Government 30 million to build, plus another forty-seven million for the walkway, paving and benches.

The Rudat team of architects hired to check the design of the park opposed his design but the bureaucrats went ahead with it anyway. I've heard rumors that before the project will be completed it will cost 90 million. It will be a headache to police. The bridge section in front of the beautiful wetlands area now spoils a handsome foreground view of the Statue of Liberty.

Five vantage points along the beach would have been just as effective and could have been built for a fraction of the cost, just like the vista of Newark Bay from the Bayonne County Park.

Instead of building Liberty Park like Sandy Hook as part of the Gateway National Park System we have Liberty Park with a mile and a half walkway for a few pedestrians who can make it all the way and back to the parking lot.

In order to pay for the walkway the Liberty State Park and Planning Commission have now proposed a marina. Banker Tom Stanton, a member of the commission overseeing the park said, "Half the agency's budget went to pay for legal fees fighting suits to stop development of the park." He said, "We won every fight but it's costly. " Seems like our bureaucrats do what they want to do to keep on check collecting regardless of all the studies made by citizen groups to oppose a project.

THANK YOU

The executive committee of the RNA wishes to express its appreciation to all those members and non-members who gave so generously in our food and toy drive in 1989.

The Salvation Army picked up 16 grocery bags of food items for use in their holiday baskets for needy families and 5 department store shopping bags of toys for distribution to underprivileged youngsters.

We are deeply grateful for your cooperation and support in our yearly effort to help the community at large.

Maria Tuzzo

PALISADE AVENUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

(The following letter is the draft proposal to be sent to all the businesses on Palisade Avenue.)

Dear Businesspeople,

We are writing you this letter to get your support in doing something about the deteriorating conditions on the Avenue. We are concerned citizens who work and live in the area and are members of the long-standing Riverview Neighborhood Association.

We are frustrated and angry about the conditions that prevail on the Avenue. Two of the biggest problems are sanitation and crime. There is always garbage and debris on the sidewalks and streets. Although the City seems to be negligent in cleaning the area properly, the greatest issue is the people: both the businesses and residents who have little or no regard for the health, safety or appearance of this area. Garbage is left on the street or sidewalk for days at a time in between the garbage pickup schedule and there is little or no sweeping of the sidewalk. The result is a continuous state of filth in the area which is frustrating to the residents and detrimental to the businesses. The Incinerator Authority of Jersey City has recently begun a campaign to educate the people of the area in the laws and regulations for cleaning, sweeping and garbage containment and pickup. The have also offered to put litter receptacles on the Avenue in front of the businesses and buildings. To do this, they need the permission of the business owner or the property owner. [Included on the other side of this page is a request form asking the Incinerator Authority to install a free receptacle.]

The second and more serious problem confronting the Avenue is the rising rate of crime and criminal activity. The drug dealings, break-ins, vandalism and graffitti, the harrassment by gangs and toughs, the loud music, reckless driving and illegal parking are just some of the more immediate problems in the area. Again, although the Police seem to be negligent in doing their job (there are never any walking patrols and seldom a routine car patrol, unless they are called for an emergency), the burden must fall on the local residents and businesspeople to organize and create their own solutions. If there was a block watch organized by the businesses to prevent and stop crime, the bad element would soon realize that the area is not as easy a target for their illegal activities. The residents would also realize that they too can make a difference and hopefully participate in stopping this plague to our neighborhood.

What we would like to suggest is a meeting for the businesspeople of Palisade Avenue where we can begin to discuss these issues and others in the hope of improving the area for the benefit of the businesses and the welfare of the residents. We would like you to consider the creation of a Palisade Avenue Business Association to help in this task because it would allow the businesses as a group to communicate directly with the City officers and agencies for assistance. In this regard, we would like to set up a first meeting to discuss these items with you.

(If any businesses are interested in obtaining a receptacle for their storefront, please fill out this form and mail it to the Incinerator Auithority)

Jersey City Incinerator Authority
501 Route 440
Jersey City, New Jersey 07305
Att.:Thomas Killeen, Director of Recycling

Dear Mr. Killeen,

I,_____, am the owner of the business,_____, located at _____ Palisade Avenue. My telephone number is _____.

I am requesting that the Incinerator Authority install a free litter receptacle in front of my business. I understand that the Incinerator Authority will be responsible for picking up and removing the litter and debris in the receptacle. (BUT I am also aware that I am responsible for the sweeping of the sidewalk and street in front of my store and the proper containment and placement of my garbage).

Sincerely,

NAME:
Business name:
Business address:

Telephone:

ILLEGAL GARBAGE

(The following article is excerpted from the Jersey Journal of November 27, 1989.)

New Jersey taxpayers are paying inflated garbage costs while unscrupulous haulers are pocketing millions of dollars by illegally dumping trash in the Kearny landfill.

Every day, more than 1,000 tons of illegal garbage finds it way into the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission landfill, officials said. The illegal dumping is driving up taxes and rapidly closing one of the last in-state landfills.

"The taxpayers of Hudson and Bergen counties are the ones who are really getting ripped off", said Bob Grant, HMDC spokesman. "The illegal dumping is causing a financial shortfall for Bergen County and the Hudson County landfill fills up much quicker."

THE HMDC dump in Kearny is the cheapest landfill in

New Jersey charging $30 a ton while it costs $125 a ton to ship garbage to another state. Only Hudson County garbage is supposed to be dumped at the HMDC site, but almost as much illegal garbage gets into the landfill as legal trash, according to the Hudson County Improvement Authority.

Dozens of haulers are charging residents of Bergen, Essex, Union and other surrounding counties $100 or more per ton to get rid of trash and then paying the HMDC $30 per ton to dispose of the garbage. To get the garbage into the dump, the hauler simply lies by saying it came from Hudson County according to the HMDC.

The mathematics of garbage can be confusing but ultimately means higher taxes for Hudson County residents.

While government officials aren't sure how high the garbage rate will go, preliminary numbers are available. Hudson residents are paying the lowest garbage rate in North Jersey but that will soon change.

A little over 10 years ago, it cost $2 per ton to dump trash. Now $100 is the norm. Hudson County pays between $21 million and $24 million per year to dump its garbage, but by 1991 taxpayers will be hit with a bill between $80 million and $100 million. That translates to a per household increase from between $93 and $106 annually to $355 and $444.

The higher tax rate should be an incentive to residents to recycle, officials said. Jersey City residents recycle nine percent of their wastes, well below the 25 percent state requirement.

"I think by the end of 1990 we'll hit 25 percent," said Tom Killeen, Hudson County director of recycling. If the county reaches that goal, it will save more than $25 million a year, assuming projected garbage costs hold.

FREE TAX ADVICE:

A) If your income is fairly uncomplicated, you can probably use the short Form 1040. In that case, you can probably prepare your own tax return. If you need help, or have questions, you can probably get the help you need for free through a program called TAX-AIDE.

Tax-Aide is sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). More than 20,000 specially trained volunteer counsellors work in the program. They give their time to help other taxpayers with their returns.

If you'd like to know more about the Tax-Aide program - and consider becoming a volunteer yourself next year - write to AARP, Tax-Aide, 1909 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20049

B) Another free source of help with taxes is the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) itself. If you use the short form, IRS will complete most of it for you and compute your taxes. You can get help from the IRS by phone too, and the IRS can also provide tax help to people who don't speak English. Call your local IRS office for details.

NEW RECYCLING INFORMATION FOR JERSEY CITY RESIDENTS:

J.C. RECYCLING NOW ACCEPTS

A) **ALL PAPER:** Newspaper, magazines, junk mail, stationery, cardboard.

B) **ALL GLASS BOTTLES/CONTAINERS**

C) **ALL METAL CONTAINERS/CANS**

D) **PLASTIC SODA BOTTLES**

Paper items must be placed together either tied or put in a paper bag or box in a neat, orderly fashion.

Glass, metal and plastic items are to be put together in a bag or box.

All J.C. residents MUST recycle the above items A) through D). People caught not recycling will be subject to tickets and fines. Spot inspectors are checking regular garbage.

REMEMBER....RECYCLING DAY IS WEDNESDAY. REGULAR GARBAGE PICKUP IS MONDAY AND THURSDAY. THESE ITEMS SHOULD BE PLACED OUTSIDE, IN FRONT OF YOUR RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS ONLY AFTER SEVEN O'CLOCK THE NIGHT BEFORE.

HELPFUL HOUSEHOLD HINTS

To remove scale in a tea kettle: boil equal amounts of vinegar and water in the kettle to loosen the scale. Let stand for several hours. Remove deposits and rinse with cold water.

To clean greasy hands: mix 1/2 cup powdered laundry detergent with 1/2 cup cornmeal. Store in a covered jar, sprinkle on hands as needed.

To rid driveway of oil spots: Sprinkle the spots with kitty litter, allow the litter to absorb the oil, then sweep up.

To clean car chrome: rub with dampened aluminum foil. The foil will turn black, but the chrome will be nice and shiny.

To remove lipstick stains from linens: Rub on some toothpaste before laundering.

To remove hard water deposits from toilet bowls: pour in 2 cups vinegar. Allow to soak an hour or more.

(If any of our friends have any other household hints, please send them in to RNA, 232 Ogden Avenue, J.C., N.J. 07307)

LETTERS

A) WILL A & P LEAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD?
(The following is correspondence between RNA and A & P)

December 13, 1989

Dear Mr. Dearani, Vice Pres. of A & P,

The A. & P. Store (#925) which is situated on Palisade Avenue is a well-recognized asset to our community. It is a real neighborhood institution used by everybody from the young to the seniors because of its convenient location in our area. The friendly and courteous staff is always available to help its customers. The store manager, Peter Giannantonio, is affectionately known as Mr. "G" throughout our neighborhood. Mr. G helps to sponsor our annual flea market and park festival each spring in Riverview Park, by donating paper plates, cups and napkins.

It has come to our attention that the lease for this store is presently expiring and, as in all small communities, rumors are circulating that the A. & P. store will close and move away. RNA would like to officially go on record as stating that we want the A. & P. to stay in our neighborhood because we need it. It is the only chain supermarket in our immediate area that people can walk to, without having to drive their cars. It is something of a stabilizing element in our community: it is reliable and dependable. After all these years, people have come to appreciate the store and its people.

Again, RNA wants your company to know that the neighborhood would like your A. & P. Store (#925) to continue to stay open at this location and provide our people with the same quality food and service as it has done in the past.

December 27, 1989

Dear RNA,

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter regarding the Palisade Avenue, Jersey City store. We would like to assure you that at the present time we have no intentions of closing or moving this location.

We are also particularly pleased to know that Mr. Giannantonio and staff are providing the outstanding service you described to Jersey City area residents.

Thank you for taking your time to let us know of your concerns. We trust we shall have the pleasure of serving you for a long time to come.

Sincerely,
John Dearani
Vice President

B) OPEN SPACE REQUEST

Dear Governor Elect Florio,

Congratulations on you overwhelming victory! We in Hudson County worked long and hard with your staff to assure this historic win.

As per your request of a continuing dialogue with the residents of this state, we in Jersey City are interested in your environmental stand. Realizing your immense interest in open space and cleaning up the Garden State, we would like to draw your attention to a situation we presently are confronted with in Hudson County. We all understand that Hudson County is the most densely populated area in the nation and that open space is at a premium; presently we are involved in a project to turn a soon to be abandoned 13 acre reservoir into a park area. The beauty of the project is that the reservoir sits next to an existing park - Pershing Field in the Hudson County Section of Jersey City.

Presently Hudson County has a deficit of over 1300 acres of park space, the highest concentration of chromium in the nation; we ask, Governor, that you support our effort and speak to our administration in Jersey City about using Green Acres bond monies for the good of the public and the environment.

Herbert Huels, President
Louis De Stefano, Vice President
Pershing Field Neighborhood Association

December 7, 1989

ANN LANDERS - VALENTINE VET PROGRAM

A recent Ann Landers column dealt with her Valentine Vet program of last year. It was very well received by the public and very much appreciated by the hospitalized veterans. Many schools made it into a class project and had the children make up their own valentines. In all, 1.5 million valentines were sent.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful program, just be creative and make your own or if you are out with a friend and they are buying valentine cards, don't say "I have no one to buy one for." because now you do Add a little personal note too. You never can tell, it may start a beautiful friendship by mail. One youngster even received a World War II medal from the veteran that received his card.

Just send your valentines to Ann Landers-Valentine Vet, Hines VA Hospital, Hines, Ill 60141 or drop it in the door at 189 Ogden Ave and I'll make sure they get sent.

Kathy Brennan

PUBLIC SERVICE DOES A PUBLIC SERVICE

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COMMUNITY UPDATE: THE BERGEN ARCHES

In January, New Jersey Transit formally announced the first stage of its Hudson River Waterfront Transportation Project with plans to convert the old Bergen Arches, an abandoned railroad right-of way that parallels Route 1B (the road leading to the Holland Tunnel entrance), into a four lane highway. Running east-west, this highway would connect both the NJ Turnpike and the Pulaski Skyway to the waterfront. NJT explained that this road would segregate the waterfront commuters from the hordes of trans-Hudson commuters and that it could be financed with tolls collected along its route.Sounds good, right? Wrong! During all the public hearings on this waterfront project, the majority of public opinion stressed the need for an environmentally safe, non-polluting form of mass transit, namely light rail and just as important, the opposition to additional bus and auto roadways. NJT states that the Bergen Arches project and other short-range plans (such as the Hoboken By-Pass: a multi-lane highway to replace the old Conrail River line below the Palisade cliffs) are just interim solutions, while they select long term solutions with their alternative analysis group and, more importantly, look for the money to implement them. Unfortunately, the feeling among the citizen and environmental groups is that, if these bus and auto highway plans are implemented, they might realistically be the final and only solution. The problems of air pollution, traffic jams and local parking have escalated with the development of the waterfront. All parties agree something has to be done, but what that is remains to be seen. The quality and safety of people's lives are seemingly being traded for a transportation plan that is easier, quicker and cheaper to build. A transportation plan that will only compound the air pollution and traffic crises - not alleviate the problem.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Danny Randanelli...??? Recognize the name? If you don't I won't hold it against you because most people know him by his nickname and ring name...Danny Ray.

To sit and talk with him, you just could not believe he is pushing 70. His mind is sharp as a knife, and he has all the quick movements from his ring days. Yet, what is most admirable about him is his sense of humor. He has many friends in the world of politics, in fact people used to call him the "Deaf Mayor of Jersey City.".

Danny Ray lost his hearing as the result of falling off a roof at the age of 9. He was born, raised and still resides in Jersey City where he attended P. S. 32 for the Deaf in Jersey City after a short stay at P. S. 23 in New York City. As a child, he journeyed to Italy with his father twice where the elder Randanelli owned a farm. He remembers going hunting with his father, bringing home some game animal and then his mother cooking the meat outdoors for all to feast upon.

His career started a a sparing partner in various New York gyms and the YMCA gym in Jersey City. As a young boy, he had numerous fist fights. The reason was people used to poke fun at him because he was deaf and called Dummy. He challenged any many any size and won them all. His days were filled with work, and his nights were the times he could train. He began to develop a knockout punch by stripping folding cartons and feeding a 28 x 41 Thompson Die Cutter which is back breaking work.

Many of his friends were boxers that lived in the same neighborhood which was called the Village in downtown Jersey City. Some of his backyard friends were Harry Martone, one the hardest hitting middleweights in the world, Lew Lombardi, featherweight contender; Joey Costa, Pete Mack and Johnny Buff who was later to become the bantamweight champion of the world.

Danny Ray has a good many fights against the likes of Johnny Carry, Joe Amato and Tony Melone. He won most of them and he was an up and coming featherweight, but then tragedy struck. He contracted pneumonia which led to chest trouble and thus doomed his boxing career.

He has held numerous offices for the Deaf including President of the Jersey City Silent Club. Topping his political accomplishments are actively assisting the election campaigns of John V. Kenny, Governor Robert Meyner and Thomas Gangemi . All three won and served long political careers.

His small print shop occupies much of his time now and the remainder of his time is spent with his four married sons, their wives and his grandchildren.

Except for a quirk of fate, Danny Ray's life could have taken a different course and he could have been sitting on top of the world today like a lot of other boxers. Some things just were not meant to be.....

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3. Be at least 65 years old or receive Social Security disability benefits.

If you qualify for a PAAD card, you will have to pay only $2.00 of the total cost of each prescribed drug when you have your prescription filled at the pharmacy. PAAD will pay the rest.

If you have questions about PAAD, or how to apply for it, call the toll-free number 1-800-792-9745 or write to PAAD, CN 715, Trenton, N.J. 08625.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER! WE WISH OUR TREASURER, VALERIE REA ALL THE BEST ON HER ENGAGEMENT TO GARY PARZYCH.

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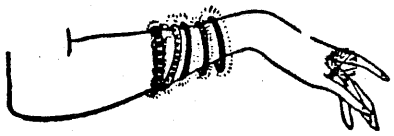

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